

Fun n' FITchburg Mass in Motion Meeting minutes

January 24, 2011

3:00-4:40 PM

City Hall Veterans Room 718 Main Street

The meeting came to order approximately 3:00PM

Introductions of members- their names, what their positions are and any announcements/updates that they had including: upcoming outdoor activities at Flat Rock Wildlife Sanctuary and Crocker Conservation, Act Fresh movement and support from Fun 'n FITchburg and Fitchburg Farmers Market Association Changing the Way We Eat live webinar streaming at Doyle Conservation Center February 12.

Steve Curry presented an overview of the CDBG application-partners were informed that the grant would not pay for equipment- such as cameras in the parks to deter vandalism and increase safety in high-risk parks.

Considerations for planning the next steps were reviewed- policy, system or environmental changes were discussed.

- ***Policy*** change includes the passing of laws, ordinances, resolutions, mandates, regulations, or rules.
- ***Systems*** change involves change made to the rules within an organization. System change and policy change often work hand-in-hand.
- ***Environmental*** change is a change made to the physical environment such as sidewalk installation and pedestrian friendly intersection to promote walking or biking.

Work Group Break-out: The members split up into the three neighborhood work groups to plan the next steps for parks or streets using an adapted Planning Tool with considerations for planning strategies around physical activity. Each group prioritized what they would like to work on based on: *assessment data, low- hanging fruits, and strategies that have potential to impact a large number of youth.*

Elm St

This group's primary focus is environmental changes to implement measures to improve pedestrian safety in the Elm St and Main St areas.

- **Strategy: Enhance the built environment to support active living in the Elm St./ downtown Fitchburg area (improve pedestrian safety and increase awareness of opportunities for physical activity)**
 - To ensure decreases in traffic speed - install traffic/speed calming measures such as speed bumps, cut-outs on sidewalks, and signage.
 - Side-walks in disrepair, old trees uprooting cement, over growth of bushes, ADA non-compliant or not covering the entire length of streets.

- Traffic lights not working, cross walks repair and islands need to be installed along Main St.

Actions to be taken:

- Coordinate efforts with other departments, Police, DPW, Planning, Parks, Fitchburg Pride, CDC, disability commission
- Identify someone from CDC to inquire plans for the future
- Identify other communities that have done this
- Research and identify funding sources to implement environmental enhancements
- Coordinate signage with Parks Director and Parks Board

Tasks were divided amongst partners to be completed by next CMN partner meeting

Cleghorn

This group's primary focus is environmental changes to implement measures to improve pedestrian safety in the Cleghorn area.

- **Strategy: Enhance the built environment to support active living in the Cleghorn Neighborhood** *(improve pedestrian safety and increase awareness of opportunities for physical activity)*
- To ensure decreases in traffic speed - install traffic/speed calming measures such as painted crosswalks and signage.
- Enhance the appearance and safety of the neighborhood and park trails via clean-up events.

Actions to be taken:

- Coordinate efforts with other departments, Police, DPW, Ward Counsel and Parks Commission
- Coordinate signage with Parks Director, Parks Board and Police traffic department.
- Coordinate efforts by the Cleghorn Community Center, Mayor of the Streets program, and Fun 'n Fitchburg to clean up the neighborhood while providing opportunity for physical activity for local youth.
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Tasks were divided amongst partners to be completed by next CMN partner meeting

Green Acres

This group's primary focus is environmental change: we will work to convert the big field that is currently on Housing Authority property to a public park.

- **Strategy: Enhance the built environment to support active living in the Green Acres neighborhood** *(create a new public park at Green Acres to greatly increase the availability of physical activity opportunities for Green Acres neighborhood residents)*
 - Big field is currently composed of a basketball court at the far corner which is in need of paving.
 - Rest of field is just open space with no playground equipment or other amenities that encourage physical activity.

- Conversion of big field to a public park through a MOU with the City of Fitchburg will allow the Parks Department to access funding streams to develop the area.
- There already exists an area that can be used for public access and parking with minimal development effort.

Actions to be taken:

- Devise a strategy to talk with key decision makers. Key to strategy development is Fitchburg Housing Authority's Executive Director and Fitchburg Parks Department Director as well as the Green Acres Team.
- Talk with the developer of the South St. School and local businesses to garner support.
- Meet with the Parks Board and Mayor
- Once adopted: Conduct focus groups with residents to see what activities they'd like to see. Something for all ages/all seasons. Include the community building on Canton Rd. into programming.